



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

MICHAEL M. CLINE
State Coordinator

10501 Trade Court
Richmond, Virginia 23236-3713
(804) 897-6500
(TDD) 674-2417
FAX (804) 897-6506

**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273
FEMA-1411-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #14
Friday 24 May 2002**

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1200 hours 22 May 2002 through 1200 hours 24 May 2002. (New information in italics)

2. SITUATION:

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greenville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

On 15 May 2002 Amendment No. 2 was made to the Major Disaster Declaration to include Individual Assistance for the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Cumberland, Greensville, Prince Edward, Shenandoah, and the independent City of Bedford.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Friday. *The DFO will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. Situation Reports will be published on Tuesdays for FEMA-1406-DR-VA, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for FEMA-1411-DR-VA.*

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 11 work related injuries reported. Power has been restored to 95 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened with the exception of Hurley schools. Hurley schools *have reopened as of 20 May 2002*, with high and middle school students attending classes at the Hurley Middle School on different schedules.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation (VDCR), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Adventist Disaster Services, Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board, Clinch Independent Living Services, and volunteers from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC), Church of the Brethren, Salvation Army of Richmond, Christian Aide Ministries, Volunteers in Mission (Kansas Mennonites), Buchanan Social Services, Church of Christ Youth Camp, Virginia United Methodists, and AmeriCorps.

Lou Botta, FCO, and Ralph Jones, DSCO, both urged all employees to be alert and careful. They encourage employees to be aware of their surroundings and any suspicious activity or packages.

The DSCO as of 23 May 2002 is Mary Camp.

The DFO will be closed the weekend of 25-27 May 2002 for Memorial Day weekend. Personnel, who have been approved to work during that time, may do so. Normal working hours will resume on 28 May at 0800 hours.

NEMIS will be updated this weekend and computers need to be logged on at the close of business today (Friday), but all programs need to be closed out. Those who may have problems logging on Monday or Tuesday morning should check the user name.

3. WEATHER:

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high 85. Sunday and Monday: chance of thunderstorms, high 77, and low mid-50s.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Expedite immediate housing needs and coordinate with long-term housing requirements.
- B. Assist in Hurley Recovery in Buchanan County.
- C. Resolve access problems for stranded population.
- D. Manage expectations.

- E. Determine optimum solutions for debris.
- F. Maximize digital information systems while minimizing paper products.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS

Daily Report

Buchanan County DRC, Hurley Middle School, State Route 643, Hurley, VA

Opened 7 May 2002, Hours 0900-1800 hrs, 7 days/wk. Site will be open Sat. May 25. Closed Sun May 26, Open Monday May 27.

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/21	23	1	15	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	478	108	350	283	251	7	43	7	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

Daily Report

Tazewell County DRC, Old County Administration Building, 315 School St., Tazewell, VA

Opened 13 May 2002, and closed on Wednesday 22 May 2002.

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*7	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/21	5	1	5	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	37	9	26	18	23	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Daily Report

Total all DRCs

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*7	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
05/21	515	117	376	301	274	8	44	7	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- A community meeting was held in Hurley on Thursday, 16 May 2002, at 1900 hrs at the Hurley Middle School. Buchanan County residents were able to talk to Federal and Commonwealth Officials about issues related to recovery. Approximately 100 residents were in attendance.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists through lunch Friday, 24 May 2002. Meals served total 87,374, six shelters have been opened, 136 people have been sheltered, 0 persons sheltered currently, 1 service center is open, and there have been 127 mental health contacts to date. Red Cross Family Services staff is located on the second floor of the high school in Hurley.

- *Buchanan County is in the early stages of development of a local Task Force and will operate the recovery effort in Hurley under the title “Buchanan County Local Recovery task Force”.*
- *The United Methodists and Church of the Brethren Christian Aide Ministries will have teams in Hurley starting on the first of June to begin casework for home repairs.*
- Donations Management functions have transitioned from the Hurley Middle School to the Donations Warehouse in Grundy, Virginia between Grundy and Vansant. The warehouse opened to the public 18 May 2002. Telephone numbers will be released as soon as possible. Seventh Day Adventists are on site to manage warehouse functions.
- The Catholic Charities have donated \$10,000.00, for disaster victims and will be distributed by the Daughter of the Holy Spirit in Hurley, Virginia.
- State Donations Manager has been tasked with coordinating clean up efforts by fifty (50) AmeriCorps workers in Hurley. Five AmeriCorps teams are performing clean up operations on the 36 homes for which requests have been made and for which appropriate releases have been signed. Necessary citizen release forms continue to be secured and are being left on homes with no occupant.
- The Regional Health Department administered 1,050 tetanus shots to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School. The clinic is no longer operational, but individuals in need of tetanus shots can receive them at the Buchanan County Health Department location on Route 83, Slate Creek Road, in Grundy, Virginia.
- Water is being distributed from the high school in Hurley. A total of 7000 gallons of potable water is available for distribution to disaster victims in Hurley. More will be made available as needed.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is assisting Buchanan County in finding housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its “boil water” advisory for the Hurley area and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741, Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- The Buchanan County Health Department will perform free testing of well water for the next 90 days.
- Anticipated Significant Activities: Continue DRC and DFO staffing and Support Coordination Activities. Prepare for meeting for community, F.E.M.A. and State personnel scheduled for 22 May in Hurley, to discuss strategy for individual assistance, by the community Development and Block Grant (CDBG) program.
- Review and process IFG Appeals
- Crisis Counseling: Crisis counseling Assistance and training Program (CCP). The Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning within the declaration area and providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing services as needed. The Board has requested funds under the Immediate Services Program Grant provision of the CCP. The Immediate Services Program Grant application was submitted to F.E.M.A. on Friday, 17 May for approval. CMCSB contact is Sherry Sanders, Emergency Services Coordinator- O; 276-964-6703; C; 276-964-1682.

- *Anticipated Significant Activities: Meet weekly with FEMA, State, and Local County Officials (Buchanan) to resolve both temporary and long-term housing issues for the residents of Hurley. Stewart Baker will serve as IA Officer beginning 28 May.*
- *Coordinator of State Recovery Task Force met with officials from Buchanan and Wise Counties regarding a local Disaster Recovery Task Force for their locality. Follow-up meetings are planned for June 2002..*
- ***The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 23 May 2002 follows:***

Registrations & Contacts

	<i>Since Last sitrep</i>	<i>Designated Cities/Counties</i>	<i>Undesignated Counties</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Teleregistrations</i>	25	1240/8	18	1266
<i>Help line Calls</i>	67			820

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

<i>CLAIMS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Filed</i>		
<i>Approved</i>		
<i>Paid (#)</i>		
<i>Paid (\$)</i>		

Disaster Housing Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST IA REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	17	1107
<i>Approved</i>	22	779
<i>Pending</i>		102
<i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>	\$56,065.44	\$1,500,303.88
<i>4Assistance Checks</i>		
<i>Recommended (#)</i>	16	777
<i>Recommended (\$)</i>	\$15,184.26	\$1,451,349.70

Individual & Family Grant Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST SITREP</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	53	657
<i>Received by State</i>	+74	583
<i>Pending Decision</i>	-2	143
<i>Eligible (#)</i>	+18	109
<i>Eligible (\$)</i>	+ \$29,698.00	\$301,068.00
<i>Disbursed (#)</i>	00	00
<i>Disbursed (\$)</i>		

(NINETY ONE APPROVED PAYMENTS ARE ON HOLD PENDING AUTHORIZATION BY DPB)

Small Business Administration

<i>LOAN APPLICATIONS</i>	<i>HOME</i>	<i>BUSINESS</i>	<i>ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>[* Issued</i>	539	129	0	668
<i>Received</i>	148	25	26	199
<i>Declined</i>	24	3	1	28
<i>Withdrawn</i>	4	3	5	12
<i>Approved (#)</i>	15	2	2	19
<i>Approved (\$)</i>	\$170,000	\$174,300	\$87,700	\$432,000
<i>Pending</i>	89	17	18	124

- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- Cumberland Mountain Community Service Board is functioning with the declaration area and providing Mental Health, Crisis Counseling and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing services as needed.

- DHCD is pursuing a local hire Housing Specialist to assist disaster victims with housing issues through the Hurley DRC.
- Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 May 2002 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419, then identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and leave a callback number
- The Claypool Hill/ Richlands Lowes has donated \$3,000 worth of shovels and clean-up equipment for disaster victims.

B. Public Assistance (PA)

- Nine (9) Requests for Public Assistance (RPAs) have been received and seven kick-off meetings have been held.
- Current damage estimate totals \$6,997,089.94. The current eligible project worksheet amounts to \$52,342.87.
- The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance was in debris clearance in the Hurley area. National Guard deployment ended on 17 May 2002. Local contractors have been hired to continue debris clearance.
- During the debris clearing operations the National Guard hauled away 1,160 loads of debris, 6,530 tons, and traveled approximately 18,150 miles to accomplish this operation over the course of 376 total hours.
- *USACE has a debris contractor on site in Hurley. Debris removal activity will start on Saturday, 25 May.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- One (1) FEMA Field Officer is deployed in Buchanan County.
- One (1) VDEM Field Officer is deployed in Buchanan County.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley has been established in Blackey at the Blackey Teen Center. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- Individuals unable to work because of severe storms and flooding in Southwest Virginia may file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance at the nearest VEC field office by no later than 10 June 2002.
- Three F.E.M.A. and three V.D.E.M. field officers were working in the add-on tornado counties of Bedford, Campbell and Greensville on Tuesday. They are making official contacts, distributing flyers, and making direct contacts in the affected areas. They report that the debris clean up is ongoing in the area with no identifiable special needs yet discovered.
- One F.E.M.A. and one V.D.E.M. officer will be going to Shenandoah County today (Wednesday)
- *CR met with Ted Costin, Deputy EM Coordinator, in Greenville CO. Brook Ridge Apartments in the Emporia area, was visited. Fourteen residents had to relocate while repairs were made to their Apartments. Most residents have now returned, and Registration Information was left for their information and use. Contacts continue to be made in all Tornado Counties.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- State and federal Hazard Mitigation staff met with Hurley officials on 14 May 2002 to discuss the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
- Data is being extracted from study maps and data set from Army Corps of Engineers to assist Buchanan County to become compliant with NFIP reconstruction and renovation.
- Survey of stream damage in Buchanan & Tazewell Counties by NRCS anticipated week of 20 May. *NRCS continues to conduct stream damage surveys in the Hurley area of Buchanan County. This work began 21 May and is being conducted under NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). EWP project funding, based on survey results, are pending. This should be monitored and DRC should be the lead. Mitigation initiatives may arise.*
- *The USACE has been tasked by FEMA for debris removal and demolition of structures, which were substantially damaged or destroyed in the Hurley area. USACE has a listing of approximately 45 structures, provided by the county building Official that they plan to review. Review of these structures is expected to begin the week of 27 May. R. Dameron (VDEM) met with P. Navesky (USACE) on 23 May to discuss the demolition procedures and reporting requirements to ensure that any demolition does not jeopardize a potential FEMA acquisition project.*
- Draft of Administrative & Hazard Mitigation strategy plan will be drafted for submission to the DFO/SCO week of 13 May.
- The Buchanan County Environmental Scoping Meeting was held on 15 May 2002 to allow for the providing of environmental and permitting information by appropriate federal agencies.
- Department of Forestry contact information regarding woody debris burning was provided to the Army Corps of Engineers and to FEMA Public Assistance function.
- Contacts have been made to arrange for participation by agency representatives at the 16 May 2002 community meeting in Hurley. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Dept. of Forestry (DOF), State Corporation Commission (SCC) Division of Insurance, and Department of Community Development (DHCD) have been asked to attend.
- *FEMA has nearly completed the survey of "targeted Mitigation" structures associated with DR1406. A draft copy is available. Approximately 200 structures are documented in this survey.*
- *FEMA is currently conducting "targeted Mitigation surveys of the damaged structures in the Buchanan County area (1411). VDEM has requested and was verbally assured that the information provided in the FEMA surveys (if totally completed) can be utilized to support a benefit cost analysis as required for acquisition. Elevation of structures may need more detailed surveys.*
- *R. Dameron (VDEM) and T. Grubb (FEMA) met on 22 May with the Washington County Manager, Board of Supervisors members, and EMS Coordinator to discuss the HMEP and future FEMA planning requirements under DMA2K. A specific Mitigation project was discussed Dameron and Grubb conducted a site visit. Other projects may follow, should the County choose to participate.*
- **Significant Activities.**
Possible NFIP compliance issues.

Coordinated with State IA Officer and Deputy Coordinating Officer for strategy to address the process for IFG Program in Hurley. State IA Officer will address the process at a meeting, Wednesday 29 May with the County.

Coordinated with Army Corps of Engineers Emergency operations Team for obtaining their list of structures targeted by Buchanan County for possible demolition.

Conducted field observations in the towns of Hurley and Grundy to identify

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- News release issued on AmeriCorps volunteers performing clean up operations in Hurley.
- Attended the following events in Hurley, Virginia 16 May 2002, for photo ops, Small Business Administration check signing, National Guard farewell cookout, and the Community Meeting at the Hurley Middle School.
- A news release reminding disaster victims to register with FEMA even if they have registered locally with the American Cross and providing the FEMA Teleregistration/HelpLine telephone numbers has been issued.
- A news release for the teleregistration deadline for disaster numbers 1406 and 1411 is scheduled for release 17 May 2002.
- News releases sent on Monday 21 May and Tuesday, 22 May, (Call for volunteers), (Red cross meals to end 25 May). PASSs sent Tuesday, 22 May (Volunteer consent forms), (Hurley DRC). Anticipated activities in the next 24 hours;(1)-Crisis counseling for flood victims, (2)-Meals services replacement for Red Cross. (3)- Contractor Fraud. (4)- Disaster unemployment assistance. (5)- Teleregistration for tornado affected counties.
- . *The FCO and DSCO took part in the forty-minute "LINE RADIS" interview on "WAXM" NORTON, updating local flood information on Friday morning, 24 May 2002. Five news releases, including a PSA distributed.*
- *News release activates will be minimal during the holiday. Also the final wrap-up of 1406 will occur sometime next week.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- State legislative members have been notified of the additional six counties and one city which have been declared eligible for Individual Assistance (IA) in the 15 May 2002 Amendment No. 2 to the Federal Declaration.
- State Senator Phillip Puckett and Delegate Jackie Stump attended the community meeting in Hurley on 16 May 2002.

G. Hazardous Materials:

- Hazmat Teams from Wise and Giles Counties and City of Bristol have completed Phase 1 of recovery and disposal of hazardous materials in Hurley. Phase 1 includes the recovery of containers from creeks, property, and businesses and the disposal of containers. Reconnaissance teams covered 128 miles of waterway and roadway, checking on foot, by boat, and by vehicle for hazardous materials.
- Thirty-six members from Wise County, Giles County, City of Salem, and City of Bristol HazMat teams have worked nearly 3,725 hours since the beginning of the event through the completion of Phase 1.

- The mobile HazMat command post at Hurley has closed. Effective 17 May 2002, individuals requesting HazMat assistance should contact the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 1-800-468-8892.
- The following containers have been disposed of: 16-1 lb propane tanks; 5-20 lb propane tanks; 19-100 lb propane tanks; 5-500 gal propane tanks; 1-330 gal propane tank, 2-250 gal propane tanks; 282-5 gal containers; 10-35 gal drums; 83-55 gal drums; 343 household waste containers; 1-20,000 gal tank; 3-1,000 gal tanks; 11-550 gal tanks; 10-275 gal tanks; 36 auto gas tanks; 38 water tanks; 31 water heaters; 8 freon tanks; 12 cylinders; 60 batteries; 1 sandblaster; 4 kerosene heaters; 28 gas cans; 3 fuel pumps; 5 transformers; 25 capacitors; 800 gals of fuel disposed.

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24 May 2002

Michael M. Cline, SCO